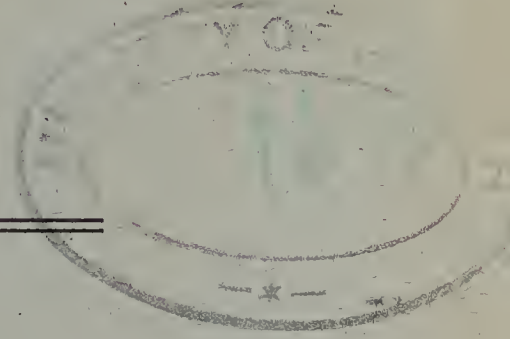


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Urban District of Heckmondwike.




Medical Officer's

ANNUAL

REPORT

FOR 1925.

HECKMONDWIKE :
ILLINGWORTH BROS., PRINTERS, MARKET PLACE,



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Urban District of Heckmondwike.

ANNUAL
REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

1925

BY

GEORGE HARPER PEARCE, M.D. (Durh.) D.P.H. (Camb.)

Of the Inner Temple, Barrister-at-Law.

*Fellow and Member of Council (Past President
Yorkshire Branch) Society of Medical Officers of Health,
Member of the Royal Sanitary Institute Etc.*

HECKMONDWIKE :

ILLINGWORTH BROS., PRINTERS, MARKET PLACE,

This Annual Report is compiled in accordance with the requirements of Circular 648 (England) issued by the Ministry of Health, 10th December, 1925.

GENERAL STATISTICS, 1925.

Area of Urban District (in acres)	696
Civil Population (Registrar General's Estimate) ...	8884
Population at Census of 1921 (Males 4180, Females 4843)	9023
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	2396
Total Private Families at Census 1921	2343
Census Population living more than 2 persons per room	17.8%
Number of Inhabited Houses (1925)	2464
Average number of persons per house	3.6
Density of population per acre	12.7
Number of Births (Males 91, Females 66) Total	158
Illegitimate Births (Males 6, Females 4) Total	10
Birth Rate per 1,000 living	17.7
Illegitimate Birth Rate per 1,000 Births Registered ...	63.3
Number of Deaths, including residents who died away from Heckmondwike (Males 64, Females 79) Total	143
Nett Death Rate per 1,000 living	16.09
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Births Registered ...	101
Illegitimate Death Rate per 1,000 Births Registered ...	Nil
Tuberculosis Death Rate (all forms) per 1,000	0.9
Phthisis Death Rate per 1,000	0.5
Zymotic Death Rate per 1,000	0.4
Respiratory Diseases Death Rate per 1,000 (Excluding Phthisis)	1.9
Cancer Death Rate per 1,000	1.8
Cases of Infectious Disease notified	54
Cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified	8
Cases of other forms of Tuberculosis notified	5
Number of Inquests	12
Rateable Value	£47801
Rate of 1d. in £ produces approx.	£187
Rainfall in inches	28.7
Number of Wet Days	154
Parliamentary Voters	5006
Local Government Voters	4176
Poor Law Relief Distributed	£837 5s. 4d.
Primary Vaccinations ... (	Figues unobtainable on Application.
Exemption Certificates Granted (
Dried Milk supplied under Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 186 lbs. to 36 Mothers.	

The Registrar General's Returns were received by the Medical Officer of Health on Wednesday, March 17th, 1926.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) 696, Population (Census 1921) 9,023. The Registrar General's estimate of the 1925 population is 8,884, a considerable decline. Heckmondwike is a Market Town and Parish. It has two railway stations, both on the London, Midland and Scottish system. The town is nine miles south-west of Leeds, nine east from Halifax, seven north-east from Huddersfield, and seven south-east from Bradford. It is immediately bounded by the Urban Districts of Spenborough, Mirfield and Birstall, the Borough of Batley, and the County Borough of Dewsbury. It is in the Spen Valley Parliamentary Division of the West Riding of Yorkshire and is governed by an Urban District Council consisting of twelve members. The town possesses some degree of historical interest and its name signifies "A place of refuge in the forest, fortified with an earth-work enclosure." The following is a quotation from a publication, "The Spen Valley and Mirfield—Illustrated":—"The town's books are very well kept so far as Heckmondwike is concerned, and Township matters can be well traced so far back as 1673 ; indeed it is said that there are no omissions in the list of Parish Constables who have ruled over the township from 1689 to 1881—a remarkable instance of faithful continuity in record keeping seldom met with in the instance of any township." The water supply is from works at Dunford Bridge belonging to the Dewsbury and Heckmondwike Water Board, lighting is from the Council's own electricity station and the gas works of the Heckmondwike and Liversedge Gas Company. Electric trams and motor omnibuses connect Heckmondwike easily and quickly with other parts of the West Riding of Yorkshire. The town possesses Public Baths, a Fire Station, Public Library, &c. According to the 1921 Census the number of inhabited houses at that date was 2,396 and the number of families or separate occupiers 2,343. The rateable value of the area is £47,801 and the sum represented by a penny rate is £187. The chief manufactures are Carpets, Motor and Travelling Rugs, Ladies' Mantle Cloths, Pile Woven Fabrics, Cloth, Furnishing Fabrics, Boots and Shoes, Wool Sorting, Rag Sorting, Fine Wool Spinning, Cotton Piece Dyeing, Machine Making, Engine Making. There is also a Brewery. Coal Miners, working over the boundary, reside in the town.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTH and DEATH RATES SINCE 1900 IN HECKMONDWIKE with comparative 1925 figures for the rest of the Country (Registrar General).

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year. (Registrar General's Figures).	BIRTHS REGISTERED.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Nett.		Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages.	
		Number	Rate.	Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births	Number.	Rate
Yearly Averages 1900-09	9,613	190	19·81	29	152	160	16·6
1910-19	9,064	169	18·5	19	109	148	16·8
1920-24	9,090	175	19·1	15	83	138	15·1
Year 1925	8,884	158	17·7	16	101	143	16·09
1925.—England and Wales		...	18·3		75		12·2
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London			18·8		79		12·2
158 Smaller Towns ..		...	18·3		74		11·2
London		...	18·0		67		11·7

Births, Leg 148 } Total 158.
 Illeg. 10 }

M. F. Birth } 17·7.
92 66 Rate }

Deaths 143. Death Rate 16·09.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year—

Leg. 16; Illeg. Nil; Total 16.

Number of women }
dying in, or in con- } from Sepsis, Nil.
sequence of child } from other causes, Nil.
birth }

Deaths from Measles (all ages), 2.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages), 1.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years), Nil.

**Causes of Death in Heckmondwike during 1925, and a
Comparison with Previous Years since 1919.**

	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Total
Enteric Fever						1		1
Small-pox				1		2	2	7
Measles	2		1		1			2
Scarlet Fever					2	1	1	4
Whooping Cough			1				1	2
Diphtheria				2	1	8	7	37
Influenza	12	3	4					
Encephalitis Lethargica								
Meningococcal Meningitis ..								
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	8	11	4	9	6	5	5	48
Other Tuberculous Diseases	4	1	1	1	3	1	3	14
Cancer, Malignant Disease	11	15	14	10	8	15	16	89
Rheumatic Fever			1	1	1			3
Diabetes			1	1	3	3	1	9
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.			11	14	10	14	12	61
Heart Disease	20	19	21	23	15	23	23	144
Arterio-Sclerosis			5	5	2	4	8	24
Bronchitis	14	11	11	18	9	12	9	84
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	10	13	10	10	2	20	8	73
Other Respiratory Diseases...	2	1	1	1	2	2		9
Ulcer of Stomach or Duo- denum			1			2	2	5
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	1	1	2			1		5
Appendicitis and Typhlitis			1	3	1			5
Cirrhosis of Liver	2			1	1	2		6
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	4	7	3	5	1	11	6	37
Puerperal Sepsis		1		1				2
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition		1						1
Congenital Debility and Mal- formation, Premature Birth	6	10	7	5	5	6	8	47
Suicide				1	1		2	4
Other Deaths from Violence		4	1	22	2	5	6	20
Other Defined Diseases ...	50	49	34	6	23	31	22	235
Causes ill-defined or unknown				1			1	2
Totals	146	147	135	141	99	169	143	980

The vital statistics for 1925 at first sight are not encouraging. The figures, however, create a false impression, and to estimate them at their true value, certain allowances have to be made. In comparatively small populations a few deaths or births make a striking difference appear in the rates per thousand and which is not so obvious in large populations. Heckmondwike has always suffered from this disability, and now it appears more so because the Registrar General's estimate of the population is reduced to 8,884, giving a lower figure to use for calculation.

The birth rate has fallen to 17·7 per 1,000, the actual number of infants born being 158. It is less than the averages since 1900, but is only slightly lower than the figure for England and Wales, or the 158 smaller towns, which is 18·3.

The infantile death rate per thousand births registered is 101, a large figure comparing very adversely, if full enquiry as to the reason is not made, with 74 for the 158 smaller towns, 75 for England and Wales for 1925, or 84 for Heckmondwike for the previous year. The fact is that only one more death occurred amongst infants in Heckmondwike in 1925 than the figure for the yearly average for the period 1920 to 1924—16 against 15—yet this, combined with the fall in the number of births during 1925, caused the rate per thousand to jump from 83 to 101. Of the sixteen infant deaths, nine were certified to be due to Atelectasis, Congenital Debility, Malformation, or Premature Birth. They lived only a matter of hours at the utmost, and nothing could have been done after birth to prolong their lives. This is ample justification for the Council's action during the year in establishing an ante-natal clinic. Four further deaths were caused by infectious diseases—Measles, Diphtheria, Pneumonia, and Tuberculosis. The latter was never notified, and being certified as Chronic Tubercular Enteritis, the child was almost certainly infected by cow's milk. The three other causes were Hæmorrhage, following circumcision, Bronchitis and Convulsions. The first was due to an accident, and the last to wrong feeding.

The general death rate was 16·0 per 1,000 of the population. It is lower than the average for Heckmondwike between 1900 and 1919, but slightly higher than the average for the period 1920 to 1924, which was 15·1. The lower population figure of the Registrar General here tells against us as before. The total number of deaths was 143, being 64 males and 79 females. Of these, 31 died away from Heckmondwike, but at some period had lived there, twenty-eight of them expiring in public institutions.

A list of the causes of death is given in a previous table, and a comparison may be made with the years 1919 to 1925. There is nothing striking with respect to the 1925 deaths, but it is worthy of mention that Pneumonia only caused eight, which is lower, with the exception of 1923, than for a number of years.

Cancer shows a slight increase on the year. Whilst hopeful discoveries have been made by research workers, we are still unable to state the cause of this dreadful malady. The only hope of cure is prompt and early diagnosis followed by surgical treatment.

The zymotic death rate was 0·4 per thousand.

Having regard, therefore, to all the circumstances, it cannot be said that the vital statistics for 1925 are other than satisfactory, an opinion which was expressed by the Medical Officer at the close of the year, before definite figures were available.

Poor Law Relief expended in Heckmondwike since 1911 is as under:—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
1911	284	14	0	1916	427	5	3	1921	1260	8	8
1912	305	8	0	1917	364	7	10	1922	905	19	11
1913	370	6	6	1918	474	3	0	1923	764	8	4
1914	446	0	9	1919	569	5	0	1924	848	0	9
1915	421	15	11	1920	682	7	0	1925	837	5	4

METEOROLOGY.

	Wet Days.	Rain- fall.		Wet Days.	Rain- fall.		Wet Days.	Rain- fall.
1910	182	30·2 in.	1916	194	30·8 in.	1922	190	32·7 in.
1911	172	23·5 in.	1917	162	21·8 in.	1923	190	29·6 in.
1912	200	37·1 in.	1918	150	19·8 in.	1924	169	25·6 in.
1913	166	23·9 in.	1919	157	17·6 in.	1925	154	28·7 in.
1914	179	28·6 in.	1920	306	14·9 in.			
1915	157	31·4 in.	1921	141	8·7 in.			

Hospital and other forms of gratuitous Medical Relief apart from the Poor Law are obtained by Heckmondwike residents at the Batley and District Hospital, the Dewsbury Infirmary, and similar institutions at Leeds and Bradford. The Secretary of the Batley Hospital furnished the following particulars:—

BATLEY AND DISTRICT HOSPITAL.

In-patients from Heckmondwike.

1924.			1925.		
No. of In-patients.		Total Cost at	No. of In-patients.		Total Cost at
		£6 3 4.			£5 13 6.
70	...	£431 13 4	76	...	£431 6 0
Total amount received in Donations from all sources in Heckmondwike during the year ending 31st December:			Total amount received in Donations from all sources in Heckmondwike during the year ending 31st December:		
£46 3 1.			£114 12 5.		

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY LOCAL AUTHORITY OR BY COUNTY COUNCIL.

(1) **Tuberculosis.** County Council provides various sanatoria. (2) **Maternity.** None apart from the Poor Law. Complicated cases are sent into the several local hospitals. There is a Maternity Home in Heckmondwike, supported by voluntary contributions, fees from patients and Government Grant, administered by the Heckmondwike Nursing Association. The Heckmondwike Urban District Council is not in any way connected with this establishment, neither are any of the Council's Officers.

During 1925 the Registrar of Births reported the registration of the births of 76 infants born in the Home. Of these children the parents of 35 resided in Heckmondwike, and 41 did not reside in Heckmondwike.

The figures for the three previous years were:—1922—Heckmondwike residents 23, others 50; 1923—Heckmondwike residents 15, others 56; and 1924—Heckmondwike residents 18, others 54.

(3) **Children.** None. (4) **Fever.** Provided by Joint Hospital Board, in which Heckmondwike is a partner. Hospital situated at Chickenley, contains 72 beds and 30 cots. (5) **Small Pox.** Provided by Joint Board. Accommodation 50 beds. (6) **Other.** None, supported from the Rates. Heckmondwike patients are admitted to the Leeds, Bradford, Dewsbury and Batley Hospitals.

There is a proposal to enlarge the administrative accommodation at the Joint Hospital at an estimated cost of about £4,800. The Smallpox Hospital is derelict and it is expected a large expenditure will be incurred in the provision of a suitable and modern hospital for the reception of Smallpox patients. Apart from the Poor Law there is no institutional provision

for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, and homeless children in the area.

Ambulance Facilities. (a) For infectious cases from the Joint Hospital Board. (b) For non-infectious and accident cases provided by a voluntary committee.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

	Address.	Sessions.	Day and Time of Meeting.	Arrangements for Medical Supervision.
Heckmondwike U.D. Council is the Authority for Maternity and Child Welfare.	George Street Sunday School, Heckmondwike.	For Maternity and Child Welfare Weekly.	Thursdays 2 to 4.	M.O.H. attends Weekly for Consultation.
	Ditto	Ante-Natal Fortnightly	Wednesday Fortnightly 2 to 4.	Woman Asst. M.O.H. for Consultations.
	Day Nurseries	None		
	School Clinics	None		
County Council the Authority.	Tuberculosis Dispensary Venereal Diseases Centres.	Outside the District		

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

*G. H. Pearce, M.D., D.P.H., L.R.C.P. L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S., Barrister-at-Law.

WOMAN ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICER FOR MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE (part time).

*E. J. Howie, M.B., Ch.B.

HEALTH VISITOR AND SCHOOL NURSE.

*Ethel M. Shorter, 3 years' General Training Certificate; Certificate of the Central Midwives Board.

VETERINARY INSPECTOR OF DAIRY CATTLE (part time).

G. Whitehead, M.R.C.V.S. (Lond. and Edin.).

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

A. K. Greenwood.

*50% salary contribution is received from Exchequer Grants in respect of officers marked *

The Medical Officer is also Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer for the adjoining Borough of Batley. The Health Visitor is directly employed by the Council as such, but the West Riding County Council pays the Heckmondwike Council an annual sum for her part time services as School Nurse under the County Council. The Sanitary Inspector is also Meat and Market Inspector.

Professional Nursing in the Home. (a) General. This is provided by the Heckmondwike Nursing Association, a voluntary body, which employs one district nurse. There is also an independent nurse, who has practised on her own account for some years.

(b) For Infectious Diseases, *e.g.*, Measles, etc. No provision is made from public funds. The Council endeavoured to arrange terms with the Nursing Association some years ago, but were unsuccessful. The Council has also several times endeavoured to persuade the Joint Hospital Board to admit cases of Measles, Pneumonia, Puerperal Fever and Diarrhœa, where, in the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health, such is urgently necessary, having regard to home circumstances. The Board has always refused. This is regrettable, for such would be easily possible in the few cases likely to be sent without any capital expenditure or the laying of a single brick.

As previously pointed out, Heckmondwike residents who may have the misfortune to fall victims to certain infectious diseases under particular conditions have a greater chance of losing their lives or being permanently damaged than if they resided elsewhere than in Heckmondwike. This is not due to any omission on the part of the Council. In the circular of the Local Government Board respecting Measles, dated November, 1915, it is stated to be "desirable that provision should be made for treatment of patients in an Isolation Hospital," and "all Sanitary Authorities should make some provision for the hospital treatment of a certain number of cases of measles."

Midwives. Three reside in the Maternity Home. They are paid salaries by the Nursing Association, and attend cases in the Home or on the District. A fourth is in private practice.

Chemical Work. Should examinations or analyses be required the arrangements are that specimens be sent either to the County Council laboratory or a practising analyst.

Adoptive Acts and By-laws.—The followings are in force in Heckmondwike:—

	Parts or Sections in force.	Date of adoption.
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890	Whole Act	1902
Infectious Disease Pre- vention Act, 1890	Whole Act	1908
Notification of Births Act, 1907	Whole Act	1909
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907	Sec. 51	1922

Heckmondwike Improvement Act, 1905.

Bye-law	Date.
Offensive Trades	1889
Prevention of Nuisances	1889
Common Lodging Houses	1889
New Streets and Buildings	1889
Slaughter-houses	1889
Regulations under Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order	1912
Hackney Carriages	1889
Baths and Wash-houses	1902
Markets and Fairs	1869
Pleasure Grounds	1923

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply. The water supply of Heckmondwike is furnished by the Dewsbury and Heckmondwike Water Board, the two partners being the Councils of these two towns. It is ample in quantity, and excellent in quality. The supply is constant. All houses, works, and other establishments are supplied direct. The water is obtained from the gathering ground on the moors situate in the parish of Penistone, about 18 miles away. It is of the upland surface variety, very soft, and, owing to the peaty nature of the catchment area, is liable, under certain conditions, to have plumbo-solvent action, and is therefore treated with lime at the reservoirs before distribution. No case of lead poisoning due to the domestic water supply has come to the knowledge of the present Medical Officer of Health since he assumed office in 1910.

The following is an analytical report upon Heckmondwike water made by the Public Analyst for the West Riding of Yorkshire in November, 1925:—

County Analyst's Office,
Bradford,
November 26th, 1925.

Total Solid Matters	8.00
Chlorine (combined) ... ..	.50
Nitrites	None.
Nitrogen as Nitrates	None.
Free Ammonia ... ..	.0021
Albuminoid Ammonia ... ..	.0028
Lead	None.
Total Hardness (Clark's Scale)	3.0

This water is of the highest organic purity. As it has the usual softness of the upland surface waters, it is suitable for all drinking, domestic, and industrial purposes.

F. W. RICHARDSON,
A. JAFFE.

The Ministry of Health, in August, 1925, sanctioned the Council's application to borrow £2,573 for the construction of a 6in. water main to the Stubley Estate Housing Scheme. The Surveyor (Mr. Littlewood) states the work will be completed early in 1926.

Pollution of Rivers and Streams.—The West Riding of Yorkshire Rivers Board exercises supervision. The Spen Beck is much polluted by dye waters, trade effluent of various kinds, etc.

Drainage and Sewerage. The Medical Officer is indebted to the Surveyor (Mr. Littlewood) for the following information:—

“The Sewage Works belonging to the Heckmondwike Urban District Council consist of an area of 40 acres, 32 of which are available for sewage disposal purposes. The works consist of two detritus tanks, three small and three large settling tanks, two storm water tanks and five percolating filters. The sewage, on entering the works, goes through the following treatment:—The heavy matter, such as soil and road grit, is deposited in the detritus tanks, which are in duplicate. The sewage then passes into three small settling tanks, where the lighter solids in suspension are deposited, and after additional tank treatment, the resulting tank liquor is treated by the percolating filters. The works at present are designed on a basis of 59,100 gallons dry weather flow, and the percolating

filters are capable of treating three times this amount. The excess of three times the D.W.F. is treated on land. The final effluent is discharged into the Spen Beck. The sludge, amounting to about one ton per day, is given to the farmers in the locality. The staff employed is the manager and three men who devote the whole of their time to the work. Heckmondwike at the present time is sufficiently drained, and the sewage works are designed to deal with the whole of the sewage and part of the surface water."

" During the year under review, the Council have completed the cleaning of the Main Outfall Sewer from the Bottoms to the Outfall Works, a distance of 1,200 yards. This has been a very costly undertaking, but was necessary on account of the heavy detritus settling in this part of the Main Sewer, diminishing the flow of Sewage to the Outfall Works and causing the Storm Overflow at the Bottoms to come into operation."

" A defective Sewer at the Bottoms, 130 yards in length, which was the cause of flooding in this part of the town, has been relaid at a higher level. The Surveyor submitted a report to the Council in June, 1922, which is comprehensive, and may be referred to for further particulars respecting Drainage and Sewerage."

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION, 1925.

No. of Privies with open Middens ...	...	...	...	12	
No. of Pail or Tub Closets ...	...	...	...	3	
No. of Privies with covered Middens ...	...	...	...	58	
					73
No. of Water Closets ...	...	...	...	2225	
No. of Waste Water Closets ...	...	...	...	154	
					2379
No. of Privies and Pail Closets reconstructed during 1925 :—					
(a) As W.C.'s ...	...	...	...	13	
(b) Others ...	...	...	...	None.	
No. of Closets constructed for New Houses, 1925				47	
No. of additional W.C.'s provided for old property in 1925 ...	...	...	...	21	
No. of Privies and Pail Closets converted to Water Closets during:—					
1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	Total.
14	61	33	11	13	132

1925 Scavenging.**Disposal of Refuse.**

Refuse removal and disposal is under the control of the Council's Surveyor.

Loads to Destructor	...	...	...	3253
Loads to Tips	...	...	...	160

Total ... 3413 loads

The loads are not weighed and may vary in amount according to circumstances.

Total Annual Cost of Scavenging	£2205	6	10
Number of Metal Bins	...	...	1472
Number of Brick Receptacles	...	...	215
Number of Middens	...	...	47
Number of Defective Metal Bins renewed			20
Number of Additional Metal Bins provided for old property	...	...	6
Number of Metal Bins provided for new houses	...	...	47
9 Brick Receptacles have been replaced by Covered Metal Bins.			38
8 Middens have been replaced by Metal Bins.			22

Number of Brick Ash Receptacles and Middens replaced by Metal Bins during:—

	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	Total.
Brick Ash Receptacles replaced by Metal Bins	9	13	9	34	9	74
Middens replaced by Metal Bins	5	26	24	12	8	75
Metal Bins substituted for Brick Ash Receptacles	23	31	42	149	38	283
Metal Bins substituted for Middens	16	84	47	47	22	216

The Sanitary Inspector furnishes the following particulars in accordance with Article 19 (12) of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1922, which requires the Inspector, as soon as practicable after the 31st day of December in each year, to furnish the Medical Officer of Health with a tabular statement containing the following particulars:—

- (a) The number and nature of inspections made by him during the year ;
- (b) The number of notices served during the year, distinguishing statutory from informal notices ;
- (c) The result of the service of such notices.

NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS.

<i>Re</i> Nuisances	987
,, Offensive Trades	52
,, Bakehouses and Restaurants	191
,, Fried Fish Shops	103
,, Ice Cream	49
,, Dairies and Cowsheds	76
,, Common Lodging Houses	24
,, Slaughter Houses	239
Total ...	1721

NATURE OF INSPECTIONS.

Choked W.C.s	12
Defective and Choked Drains	25
Defective Privies and Pail Closets	22
Manure Accumulations	28
Defective Dry Ashes places	13
Defective Metal Bins	18
Insufficient Metal Bins	2
Keeping of Animals and Poultry	2
Defective W.C. Apparatus	2
Insufficient W.C. Accommodation	9
Fish Box Accumulation	3
Defective Trough W.C.s.	1
Defective Vent Shafts	2
Defective Manure Receptacles	1
Others	2
Total ...	142

Informal Notices served	135
Informal Notices complied with	124
Statutory Notices served	5
Statutory Notices complied with	3
Total No. of Nuisances in hand at close of 1924	37
Total No. of Nuisances in hand at close of 1925	33
Total No. of Nuisances reported during 1925	105
Total No. of Nuisances abated during 1925	109
Legal Proceedings	None

Smoke Abatement.—In common with that of other industrial areas, public opinion is becoming aroused against the pollution of the atmosphere by smoke unnecessarily. To-day we should not tolerate a polluted water supply, and it is possible

to abolish a polluted air supply. This can be done with financial gain to consumers of coal, and much benefit to the health of the community in general. The methods and reasons have often been stated publicly and are familiar to many. The waste from burning raw coal at present is enormous, but a much greater question is the effect upon the general amenities of life. The subject was referred to in the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health last year. In October, 1925, the Sanitary Committee instructed the Sanitary Inspector to make observations of the emission of black smoke from the several factory chimneys in the town. The following extracts from Committee Minutes are of interest:—

December 7th, 1925:—The Sanitary Inspector reported on observations he had taken of a chimney in the town as to emission of dense black smoke therefrom, when it was resolved that the Clerk be instructed to write to the owners of such chimney warning them as to their future conduct in this respect, and that a recurrence of the nuisance would probably mean the institution of proceedings against them.

March 1st, 1926:—A letter was read from the West Riding of Yorkshire Regional Smoke Abatement Committee with reference to a special course of lectures on smoke abatement to be held in Leeds, when it was resolved that the Sanitary Inspector be authorised to attend the course.

It is expected that the Inspector's attendance will be reflected in improved atmospheric conditions in Heckmondwike.

A measure called the Public Health (Smoke Abatement) Bill is at present before Parliament. It is intended to follow the precedent of previous Bills on the subject, to extend the scope of certain Acts, and to encourage a more rigid enforcement of existing laws. The first clause gives power to take proceedings irrespective of the colour of the smoke. It also defines the expression "smoke" as including soot, ash, grit, and gritty particles. The Bill also gives power to the local authorities to prescribe standards for the emission of smoke and to require that certain new buildings shall be provided with arrangements for smokeless heating. The Minister of Health is anxious to reduce the volume of domestic smoke, which is responsible for at least 50 per cent. of the pollution of the atmosphere. Dwelling-houses will be exempt, because the installation of smokeless heating in them will not be compatible with the rapid and inexpensive provision of working-class houses, which are urgently needed. People are exceedingly conservative in their domestic habits, and no cheap form of smokeless fuel is at

present available for domestic consumption. Under Clause 3, the Minister of Health, after a public inquiry, and in consultation with the local authorities or other interests concerned, can make orders extending the list of noxious or offensive gases mentioned in Section 27 of the Alkali, etc., Works Regulations Act, 1906. Another clause exempts ships from the operation of the Bill. The measure will not bring the complete disappearance of fogs, or of smoke which has such unpleasant and harmful effects, but the Minister of Health has gone as far as he can without adding to the cost of living and of production and manufacture.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BY-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

Offensive Trades.

Tallow Melting	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fat Melting	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Tripe Boiling	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Bone Boiling	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gut Scraping	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fellmongering	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

There have been 52 inspections of these premises. They are generally kept in accordance with the bye-laws, but not invariably. On one occasion the Medical Officer of Health visited the gut scraping establishment accompanied by the Sanitary Inspector. The smell was so overpowering that it was impossible to enter the premises until several windows had been opened together with the door. Even after ten minutes had elapsed, with a moderate wind blowing, the stench inside the place was still unbearable. When at last it became somewhat bearable, it was found a quantity of putrid guts had been stored up, a large coke stove was burning, and the windows had not been opened for months. Needless to say the proprietor was called upon to comply immediately with the bye-laws. He stated he had noticed nothing wrong, and his son said he spent several hours daily on the premises listening to his wireless, which he had installed there in preference to elsewhere. This is an illustration of the variety of personal tastes.

Common Lodging Houses. There is one upon the register. Twenty-four inspections have been made. The bye-laws are generally complied with.

There are no "Houses Let in Lodgings." There does not appear to be need for regulations in respect of underground sleeping rooms (Housing Act, 1925, Sec. 18 (1)).

Schools. The West Riding County Council is the Authority

for School Medical Inspection in Heckmondwike, and it is presumed a report upon the Sanitary condition of the Heckmondwike Schools will be made in compliance with the requirements of the Board of Education by the School Medical Officer, who is responsible on occasions in which action is necessary for preventing the spread of infectious disease amongst scholars in times of epidemic (Memorandum on Closure of and Exclusion from School, 1925).

HOUSING.

(I) General.

(1) General Housing conditions in Heckmondwike are similar to those in neighbouring areas. Dwellings are principally of the working-class type, and vary from new modern erections to some which are very old. There is a number of back-to-back houses of old type, where adequate ventilation is impossible and lighting deficient.

(2) (a) The extent of shortage or excess of houses is illustrated by the following figures, which are extracted from the Census of 1921 and brought up to December 31st, 1925.

Urban or Rural Area	Percentage of Structurally Separate Dwellings returned as			Rooms per Dwelling	Families per Dwelling	Persons per Family		Rooms per Person		
	Private Houses	Maisonettes, Flats, Tenements, Etc.	Attached to Shops, Offices, Warehouses, Etc.					All Private Families	Families in 1—9 Rooms	
Col. A.	B	C	D	1921	1921	1921	1911	1921	1921	1911
Heckmondwike U.D.	96	—	4	3.47	1.00	3.80	3.95	0.90	0.90	0.89

Urban or Rural Area	Increase or Decrease (—) in Dwellings 1911—1921		Increase or Decrease (—) in Private Families 1911—1921		Surplus or Deficiency (—) of Rooms in 1921 on Basis of England and Wales Standard 1911		Population Living more than 2 persons to a Room			
	No.	Per Cent.	No.	Per Cent.	No.	Percentage of Standard Number	Population		Percentage of Total Private Family Population	
							1921	1911	1921	1911
Col. A.	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W
Heckmondwike U.D.	76	3.4	79	3.5	2380	23.0	1582	1436	17.8	16.1

(b) The number of structurally separate dwellings occupied by private families or vacant, at the 1921 Census was 2396. At the end of 1925 the total number was 2556.

Mr. Littlewood, the Council's Surveyor, has kindly furnished the following figures which give the number of new houses erected in 1925 by the Council.

No. of Non-Parlour Type occupied	...	...	16
No. of Parlour Type occupied	...	...	28
No. of Non-Parlour Type roofed in (not occupied)			20
No. of Non-Parlour Type with foundations completed (not occupied)			10

The Housing Scheme when completed will consist of 32 Parlour Type and 107 Non-Parlour Type.

(3) The Census figure for population in 1921 was 9,023. The Registrar-General estimates the population in 1925 at 8,884.

(II) Overcrowding.

(1) Taking the whole area and estimating four persons per house, there does not appear to be any general overcrowding, but there are many individual instances.

(2) The causes of the present overcrowding are primarily as follows:—

(a) The building of houses to let had fallen off just prior to the war.

(b) During the war practically all building was suspended.

(c) Since the war, building materials and labour have been so costly that until quite recently private builders would not build houses to let, as they could not obtain an economic rent for them. Consequently, it has been left almost entirely to Local Authorities to supply this kind of house.

(d) The supply has been altogether inadequate to meet the normal demands of the population, and that, combined with the fact that through building being entirely suspended during the war, the supply fell much below the demand, accounts for the present state of affairs.

(3) The Council is engaged in constructing houses which, to some extent, will reduce overcrowding.

(4) The following are examples of some cases of overcrowding met with during 1925. The Registrar-General's standard is two persons per room. The Common Lodging-house standard as fixed by Bye-laws is 300 cubic feet per person, two children below ten years of age counting as one adult.

W.—2 rooms, 10 occupants.
 D.—2 rooms, 10 occupants.
 M.—2 rooms, 9 occupants.
 W. W.—2 rooms, 10 occupants.
 S.—2 rooms, 10 occupants.
 G.—2 rooms, 9 occupants.
 B.—1 room, 5 occupants.
 P.—2 rooms, 6 occupants.
 W. S.—2 rooms, 7 occupants.
 M.—2 rooms, 10 occupants.
 A.—2 rooms, 10 occupants.
 L. B.—3 rooms, 10 occupants.
 H.—2 rooms, 8 occupants.
 H. H.—3 rooms, 12 occupants.
 R.—2 rooms, 9 occupants.
 C.—2 rooms, 9 occupants.
 J. G.—2 rooms, 10 occupants.

Five cases of overcrowding have been abated by the tenants being transferred to houses on the new housing site.

Beyond urging persons living under overcrowded conditions to attempt to get elsewhere, nothing has been done with the exception of five cases. It is not practical, there being nowhere else for them to go. Where lodgers are kept the circumstances are, of course, entirely different, and pressure is brought to get rid of them.

(III) Fitness of Houses.

(1) (a) A great number of houses have defects which could be remedied under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(b) The general character of these defects is principally defective roofs, causing dampness; damp walls, owing to lack of damp-proof courses, etc.; defective stone floors; defective and old stone sinks; lack of ventilation, owing to fixed windows; sash windows without cords, etc. There are also a large number of minor defects which, in the aggregate, become serious matters. Defective drains are very common. There is no modern method employed for their examination. A smoke testing machine is necessary for the purpose. Its purchase and regular use is recommended to the Council.

(c) In some cases owners, and in many cases tenants, are responsible for existing conditions. It must not be forgotten that very trifling repairs may easily cost a year's rent, but on the other hand there is something to be said for those living in houses badly in need of attention.

(2) General action taken as regards unfit houses under:—

(a) The Public Health Acts.

(b) The Housing Acts.

This query of the Ministry of Health is perhaps best answered by the following quotation from the Medical Officer's Annual Report for 1924, pages 30 and 31:—

“ There are very many houses in Heckmondwike which are in need of repairs, some trifling, but the majority considerable. The Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, require systematic inspection of dwelling-houses in the area of local authorities, and Article IV provides:—

“ The local authority shall, so far as may be necessary, take into consideration at each of their ordinary meetings the records and shall give all such directions and take all such action within their powers as may be necessary or desirable in regard to any dwelling-house to which the records relate, and a note of any directions so given and the result of any action taken shall be added to the records.”

These Regulations are not systematically carried out, and this is principally the reason why so many houses need repairs. I have referred to this matter previously, and recommend that the Council instruct the Sanitary Inspector, who is also Housing Inspector, to carry out the necessary work imposed by the Regulations, and to place his records before the Committee at each of its meetings for their decision in respect of the various dwelling-houses inspected.

There are also some dwelling-houses which are unfit for human habitation. It is not practicable, owing to the Housing shortage, to recommend Closing Orders in each case, but in some it is possible for repairs to be done, and I recommend instructions be given accordingly, pending the completion of additional houses. There is an appreciable number of streets in Heckmondwike which have been in existence many years but have not been made up and taken over by the Council. Their surfaces are mostly bad and in need of improvement. This is a matter I think worth the Council's consideration.”

A meeting of the Sanitary Committee was held on August 17th, 1925. The following is an extract from the Minutes of that meeting:—

“ A letter was read from the West Riding County Council with regard to the Housing Conditions of the District, when it was resolved that the housing records be placed before the Committee each month.”

(IV) Unhealthy Areas.

There are none in Heckmondwike, but there are blocks of very old houses in several places which are much in need of repairs. There are also many other houses badly in need of repairs, which can and should be done. It is unreasonable that tenants should be living in houses which, for instance, are not watertight owing to defective roofs and spouting, whilst it is a source of loss to owners for their property to be in such a condition.

(V) Bye laws Relating to Houses, to Houses Let in Lodgings, and to Tents, Vans, Sheds, Etc. :—

The Council does not possess such. There does not seem to be any immediate need for them.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	... ..	47
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:		
(1) By the Local Authority	... ..	32
(2) By other bodies or persons	... ..	15

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses.

Inspection. (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 89

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 2

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 4

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 64

2. Remedy of defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 58

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... None

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—

(a) By owners ... None

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners None

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ... None

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... None

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—

(a) By owners ... 1

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners None

C. Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925:—

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... None

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... None

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ... None

(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... None

(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... None

CLOSING ORDERS, &c., made under Housing, Town Planning, &c., Acts.

Situation.	Date of Representation to Sanitary Com. by M.O.H.	Date of Closing Order.	Date of Determining Order.	Date of Demolition Order.	Remarks.
34, 34a, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, Milton Square	Nov. 27th, 1911	Dec. 7th, 1911	None made	None made	Repaired and used as rag warehouse 1, 3, & 5 used as workshop after alteration; 7, 9 & 11 demolished to first floor; 13 & 15 occupied as store; 17 standing derelict.
1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, Royle Fold and	Jan. 22nd, 1912 & May 8th, 1924	Feb. 5th, 1912 June 2nd, 1924	None made None made None made	None made None made None made	
4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, Cook Lane	Feb. 19th, 1912	None made	None made	None made	
14, 15, 16, 17, 18, Milton Square	March 18th, 1912	June 24th, 1912	For No. 14 July 7th, 1913	None made	4, 6, 8, 10 & 12 were demolished by owner; remainder repaired and used as joinery works, with 28 as fried fish shop.
11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, Croft Street	March 18th, 1912	June 24th, 1912	11 to 19, Apl. 28th, 1913 23 to 41, July 9th, 1913 21, Oct. 27th, 1913	None made	14 made fit for habitation, 15, 16, 17, 18, converted into warehouse.
20, Walkley Lane	None made	None made	None made	None made	Rendered fit for habitation.
13, Carr Street	Oct. 28th, 1912	Nov. 11th, 1912	None made	None made	Closed by owner but relet by him 1916.
29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, Upper George Street	April 21st, 1913	April 28th, 1913	None made	None made	Used as storeroom.
27 and 29, Albion Street	Dec. 8th, 1913	Dec. 22nd, 1913	None made	None made	Rendered fit for habitation and tenanted.
6 and 8, Walkley Lane	May 25th, 1914	June 8th, 1914	None made	None made	Demolished by owner.
123, 125, 127, 129, 131, High Street	July 20th, 1914	July 27th, 1914	None made	None made	Outstanding Dec. 31st, 1924.
134, Brighton Street	None made	None made	None made	None made	Demolished by owner.
6, Anthony Square	June 21st, 1915	July 5th, 1915	None made	None made	Closed by owner, 1914, but relet by him 1917, now used as fried fish shop.
94, High Street	July 25th, 1921	Aug. 8th, 1921	None made	None made	Closed by owner, used as warehouse.
94, Walkley Lane	Nov. 13th, 1922	Nov. 27th, 1922	None made	None made	Repaired, converted into dairy.
28 and 30, Walkley Lane	Ditto	Ditto	None made	None made	Closed by owner.
21 and 23, Kilpin Hill	May 14th, 1923	May 14th, 1923	None made	None made	Closed by owner.
Houses in Cliffe's Yard behind 9 and 11, Royle Fold	May 8th, 1924	June 2nd, 1924	None made	None made	Occupied as warehouse.
6, Royle Fold	Ditto	Ditto.	None made	None made	Standing empty, derelict.
8, Royle Fold	Ditto	Ditto.	None made	None made	Still occupied.
16, Royle Fold	Ditto	Ditto.	None made	None made	Occupied as warehouse.
18, Royle Fold	Ditto	Ditto.	None made	None made	Occupied as dwelling.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1925, for the Urban District
of Heckmondwike, on the Administration of the Factory
and Workshops Act, 1901, in connection with
FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.**

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces,
including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector or Inspector
of Nuisances:—

Premises.	Inspections.	Number of Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	65	2	Nil
Workshops (including Work- shop Laundries)	174	2	Nil
Workplaces (other than Out- workers' premises)	25	1	Nil
Total	264	5	Nil

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			No. of offences in respect to which Pro- secutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
Nuisances under Public Health Acts:—				
Want of Cleanliness	—	—	—	—
Want of Ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage of Floors ...	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances:—	4	4	Nil.	Nil.
Sanitary Accommoda- tion:— { Insufficient, Unsuitable or Defective. Not separate for sexes.	1	1	Nil.	Nil.
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts:—				
Illegal occupation of under- ground Bakehouse (S. 101) ...	—	—	—	—
Other Offences:—				
[Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921] ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	5	5	Nil.	Nil.

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (S. 131) at December 31st, 1925.

Plasterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Rag Sorting	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Boot Repairing	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Hairdressers	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Breadmaking	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Millinery and Dressmaking	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Tailoring	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Waste Sorting	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Plumbing and Electricians	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Joiners, Cabinet Makers, Wood Carvers and Upholsterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Tinplate Working	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Watch Repairing	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Painters	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Rug Making	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Saddlery	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Basket Making	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Wheelwright	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Restaurant Kitchens	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Various	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
							—
							94
							—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**(a) MILK SUPPLY.**

	Year 1925	Year 1924	AVERAGES to nearest figure	
			1920 to 1923	1916 to 1919
Cowsheds	6	5	7	8
Milch Cows (approx number)	60	55	58	50
Cowkeepers	3	2	3	3
Cowkeepers who are also Milk Purveyors	2	1	2	2
Milk Purveyors only	19	17	9	9
Number of Inspections	24	26	36	28
Dairies	8	6	—	—
Number of Inspections	52	55	—	—

The quantity of milk available for the requirements of Heckmondwike residents is sufficient to meet the demand. Most of it is produced outside the town and a large quantity of

dried milk is purchased by residents for children. This is undoubtedly of great advantage, for dried milk of recognised brand and of full cream quality is a safe food, which cannot be said of ordinary milk as sold to-day throughout the country, which usually contains cow dung, the tubercle bacillus, and frequently added water. In conversation recently, the Medical Officer of Health for a neighbouring town stated that of the samples of milk examined for his area in 1924 no less than forty per cent. contained the tubercle bacillus, whilst in 1923 thirty per cent. contained the bacillus. Persons should realise that practically all cases of spinal disease, hip joint disease, holes in the neck, and most cases of bone and gland disease seen amongst us are entirely due to infection through drinking tubercular cows' milk. This is due to animals in the herd being infected with tuberculosis. The cow dung, which is in most milk sold, is entirely due to dirty and neglectful methods of milking. The public does not realise the facts, otherwise a pure milk supply would be demanded and nothing less would be accepted. The milk supply of Heckmondwike is no worse than the rest of the country. During recent years there has been considerable improvement in the methods of production so far as Heckmondwike is concerned, the Council having insisted upon the requirements of the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders being complied with. Unfortunately they have no control over milk produced outside Heckmondwike. The Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, has also been taken advantage of by the Council to ensure a purer milk supply, but here again the power is only local. It is surprising how content the population is to purchase and drink milk plus filth. Water is obtainable at a much less price than milk, yet it is easy to visualise the outcry there would be if the domestic tap supplied us with water containing cow dung. When the public refuse to purchase milk unless it is clean, such will be obtainable. The remedy is with the people themselves. Recently a local milk seller was seen who had placed his hand can on the street surface whilst his right foot was on the can lid, he being engaged in casual conversation with a friend. His boots were heavily coated with manure. The Medical Officer of Health spoke to him without effect. The milkman smiled and did not remove his foot. It may be said the lid was on the can, but to remove the lid the man must soil his fingers, which would then go into the can to grasp the measure for the next gill sold. It all shows the neglect or ignorance, or both, on the part of some vendors. Another illustration is the prevailing practice when distributing milk of wearing an overall upon which is worn a dirty jacket or overcoat, thus destroying any advantage which may be obtained from a clean overall. There is nothing to prevent the overall being worn over the clothing.

Once again, it may not be out of place to repeat a statement publicly made by the President of the Local Farmers' Organisation: "It was the fault of Public Authorities if milk was not produced now under ideal conditions."

No milk purveyor in Heckmondwike yet sterilises his vessels, although the simplicity of it has been pointed out before.

The structural condition of the cowsheds is still far behind modern requirements but here the difficulty is particularly between landlord and tenant. The year 1926 is expected to see new powers under which Local Authorities will be able to take action to enforce more hygienic conditions in cowsheds.

The West Riding County Council, with the object of fixing an agreed standard for the minimum requirements respecting structural conditions of cowsheds, sought the co-operation of Local Authorities and farmers. A Sub-Committee visited the various areas throughout the West Riding and inspected certain cowsheds in each. In Heckmondwike the Sub-Committee was received by Councillor J. J. Lockwood, Chairman of the Council, and Councillor B. G. Crowther, Chairman of the Sanitary Committee, who were accompanied by the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector.

The following is the report of the Sub-Committee upon what they saw. It was not news to Heckmondwike, because all cowsheds have been reported upon at various times previously by the Medical Officer of Health, who, with the Sanitary Inspector, is in agreement with the report.

HECKMONDWIKE URBAN DISTRICT.

The Chairman of the Urban Council and Councillor Crowther, with the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector accompanied the Sub-Committee on inspections.

Henry Hodgson, Crabtree Farm.

One Shed—Brick building, grey slate roof, standings for 16 cows (704 c.ft.), light variable, too dark at entrance end of shed, but fairly good for 10 standings, ventilation insufficient, boards over cows at the end furthest from entrance should be removed. Headwalk for 10 standings, but space opposite four end standings used for storing hay and chop, walls here very dusty, cows well kept, standings dusty, rear passage clean, but rear walls dirty.

Manure well away from shed in open field, liquid manure tank in use.

W. Hunter, Stubley Farm.

1st Shed—Stone lean-to building, 12ft. wide, standings for

8 cows (361 c.ft.), light poor, ventilation, no permanent inlets and 2 louvres blocked with straw, brick floor, rough rear wall dirty, otherwise shed fairly clean. Good cattle.

2nd Shed—Converted stone barn with standings for 16 cows, head to head, with good wide centre feedwalk open to roof of barn, low ceiling over cows for storing hay, etc., light not sufficient at rear of cows, brick floor fairly clean, rough walls, well conducted shed and cattle in good condition.

3rd Shed—Brick building, 13ft. 3in. wide, 8 cows (414 c.ft.), lean-to roof, light fair, ventilation insufficient, fixed windows and 2 louvres in roof stopped up, rear passage clean, but rear wall not very clean.

4th Shed—Converted cart shed, unsuitable and not worth making suitable.

Yard clean and tidy.

C. Lund, Cawley Hill Farm.

One Shed—Stone building, standings for 10 cows (359 c.ft.), good flagged floor and good channel, but drain inlet inside, no permanent air inlets, but 3 open raised ridge tiles for top ventilation, headwalk and good rear passage, light good (opaque glass), very clean, good shed apart from ventilation.

(a) The Quarterly Reports of the Council's Veterinary Inspector are as follows:—

Bank Foot House,
Batley,
March 31st, 1925.

To Dr. Pearce,
Medical Officer of Health,
Heckmondwike.

SIR,

I have again the pleasure of submitting my Report of the Inspection of Milk Cows in your area during this month. The cows and udders with one exception are quite satisfactory. The exception is a cow with an unusual sized hind quarter of udder, probably due to a chill; the amount of milk and its normal condition, secreted from this quarter, to me is rather remarkable.

I have positive evidence that the milk is not used for human consumption.

Yours faithfully,

GEO. WHITEHEAD, M.R.C.V.S.

June, 1925.

I have again the pleasure of submitting my Report of the

Inspection of Milk Cows in the Council's area.

The general condition of the cows satisfactory; the cows' udders from a tubercular point of view also satisfactory.

The unusual udder mentioned in my last report has subsided and now the udder is normal.

A case of Mastitis (under treatment) satisfactory evidence the secretion is destroyed, also a deaf quarter (no secretion).

You will note we have again cows at Cawley Hill Farm.

Yours faithfully,

GEO. WHITEHEAD, M.R.C.V.S.

September 30th, 1925.

I have again the pleasure of submitting my report of the Inspections of Milk Cows in the Heckmondwike area. A few cows rough in coat due to the season favouring late turning out to grass.

The general condition of the cows and the udders quite satisfactory.

We have a rather thin cow at Cawley Hill Farm (a recent purchase), due, I think, to previous poor keep, but I will again visit and note if any improvement.

To date no report of a suspicious case under the recent September 1st, 1925, Tuberculosis Order.

Yours faithfully,

GEO. WHITEHEAD, M.R.C.V.S.

December 31st, 1925.

I have again the pleasure of submitting my report of the Inspection of Milk Cows in your area.

The general condition of the cows satisfactory, the cows udders also satisfactory; two cases of deaf quarters (no secretion from either).

The red cow mentioned in my last Quarterly Report has certainly improved in condition.

We have no case in your area reported under the 1925 Tuberculosis Order.

Yours faithfully,

GEO. WHITEHEAD, M.R.C.V.S.

(b) Meat. The Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, came into force on April 1st, 1925. Previously to this date no systematic meat inspection had been in operation in Heckmondwike. The matter was referred to in the report of the Medical Officer of Health last year and in response to his representations the Council on several occasions considered what action should

be taken in view of the considerable addition to the work which would arise in the future and as to the best means available to carry out the Order having regard to the technical knowledge necessary on the part of the person performing the inspections. At a meeting of the Sanitary Committee on February 2nd, 1925, the Regulations were considered "when it was resolved that the Sanitary Inspector be appointed to perform the duties of Meat Inspector under the Regulations and that Notices to be given under Regulation 11(1) should be given to him, and further that the appropriate officers of the Council give such Notices and do such advertising for the purpose of bringing the Regulations to the notice of those concerned as may be necessary." In July the Medical Officer of Health reported upon the presence of dogs in slaughterhouses, which is a breach of the Council's bye-laws, when warnings were sent to all butchers. At a meeting of the Sanitary Committee on August 17th the Sanitary Inspector reported an inspection they (the Medical Officer and himself) had made of a slaughterhouse in the District when it was resolved that proceedings be taken against the occupier for breaches of the Council's bye-laws with regard to slaughterhouses.

Slaughterhouses in use at undermentioned dates:—

	In 1914.	In 1920.	In Jan., 1925.	In Dec., 1925.
Registered ...	6	5	5	4
Licensed ...	2	1	1	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	8	6	6	5

With the exception of the Co-operative Society, all slaughterhouses are bad both structurally and geographically. The Inspector reports:—

Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	239
Regular notices of slaughter received	...	...	...	...	43
Occasional notices of slaughter received	...	...	...	...	689
Animals slaughtered.					Carcases inspected.
Cattle	730				705
Sheep	2214				2117
Swine	1106				1028
Calves	53				47
	<hr/>				<hr/>
Total	4103				3897

The Inspector reports the following surrenders:—

Carcase of heifer with offal (Tuberculosis)	...	...	lbs.
Carcase of pig with offal (Tuberculosis)	...	...	98
Pickled beef (condition undefined)	...	...	59

Organs of seven pigs (Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	91
67 beasts' livers (fluke)	...	...	...	1166
Portions of beasts' livers (fluke)	...	...	...	50
2 sheeps' livers (fluke)	...	...	...	4
10 pigs' livers (condition undefined)	...	...	...	37
				<hr/>
Total weight in lbs.	...	...	...	1931
				<hr/>

Diseased or unsound meat is destroyed at the Council's destructor.

The Sanitary Inspector being also Markets Inspector is in an advantageous position respecting the administration of the Meat Regulations as regards stalls. He reports the requirements are generally complied with at once should complaint be necessary. There is no public slaughterhouse in the town. Such is very desirable and has been mentioned many years ago. The necessity of such places, together with their utility, was amply demonstrated during the war. The good class butcher is not opposed to them and did the public realise the present conditions they would be demanded everywhere. Their object is the provision of a clean meat supply with no risk of diseased or unsound meat being sold to the public, whose health is the first consideration and who pay for the meat.

(c) **Other Foods.** During recent years the necessity of a pure food supply has been demonstrated often by sanitarians, the press, and in other ways. It is remarkable the public are so apathetic. Could they see the conditions under which their food is produced there would be an upheaval throughout the country and conditions would be altered. There are signs of a tendency towards that direction. Even the custom of wrapping loaves of bread in waxed paper is a small but welcome sign. There are eleven BAKEHOUSES and three RESTAURANTS on the register. Some of the former are kept in reasonable condition but not all. Recently the Council has had under consideration the cases of a number of persons who make for sale bread and confectionery under bad conditions in defiance of the requirement respecting bakehouses of the Factory and Workshop Acts. In one instance, most attractive looking fancy cakes were being made in a house consisting of two small rooms which were filthy. In the room downstairs there was a bed occupied, when inspected during the forenoon, by a man. The bedding was dirty, some cakes just baked were on the bed where a dog and cat were rolling. A woman and girl were in the room, which was much disordered, dirty cooking utensils being dumped on the floor for the animals to lick when disposed and a sickening odour pervaded the whole place. Notwithstanding this the pastry

would have been readily consumed if served for afternoon tea in a first-class hotel. These people have been dealt with, needless to say, as were others who were carrying on the business of confectioners in a living room where infectious disease was present. The public and the reputable tradesman who, of course, complies with all requirements of the law, are the sufferers. The Council does not possess quite as strong powers respecting RESTAURANTS, hence they are not so easily dealt with should occasion arise. There have been no complaints during the year. Seventeen FRIED FISH SHOPS are on the register. Nuisances arise and complaints are not infrequently made. It is regrettable the powers available are not acquired.

The following is a quotation from last year's report:—

“ I again recommend that bye-laws should be adopted respecting the trade of fish frying. Their object is to protect the purchaser who has everything to gain by such adoption. The trade organisation asked the Council to do this some years ago, but the Council decided otherwise. Reference may be made to my remarks in previous Annual Reports.”

There are 17 ICE CREAM purveyors on the register. Through the Council's action the conditions have been greatly improved, the powers under the various Acts having been exerted to the utmost with great benefit to the public. One purveyor after failure to observe warnings was prosecuted for carrying on his business under disgusting conditions, the result being conviction and fines.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts. These are administered by the County Council, whose inspectors take periodical samples. It would be advantageous if an arrangement could be made whereby the Sanitary Inspector did this work, he being thoroughly in touch with local conditions. As a result of information supplied convictions have been obtained for selling adulterated milk locally and one milk purveyor was warned for selling milk containing cow dung. It is remarkable that the public think so little about these matters. The milk adulterator generally gets much sympathy and a conviction appears to have no adverse effect upon his trade.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1925.

* Males, 3; Females, 5. + Males, 4; Females, 1.

[illegible]

Fortunately there is nothing special to record respecting the prevalence of notifiable infectious disease during the period since 1920. Smallpox, although near at hand on several occasions, has never been actually present. On a number of occasions, contacts have been kept under observation, and the Medical Officer of Health has seen suspected cases in consultation with practitioners. The district is notoriously insufficiently protected by vaccination, the majority of the inhabitants either being unvaccinated or vaccinated many years ago but never re-vaccinated.

An anonymous writer, whose identity is stated to be well known, sent a letter to the local press recently. In it he made the usual statements about the uselessness of vaccination as a protective measure against smallpox and proceeded to attack the Medical Officer of Health in his official capacity for asserting that vaccination is the only certain preventive of smallpox. The Medical Officer has neither the time nor the inclination to engage in any discussion upon what, in this connection, is a scientific fact, but for the satisfaction of the anonymous writer he makes the following offer:—He and his wife are willing at any time to go to a smallpox hospital and spend twenty-four hours—or longer, if desired—in intimate contact with patients suffering from smallpox. He invites the gentleman to bring his wife—or to come alone should he prefer it—and do the same. The Medical Officer will make all arrangements, will give the anonymous gentleman a very hearty welcome, and do everything possible for his comfort.

Scarlet Fever has been very mild in type, some difficulty being often experienced in diagnosis. There have been three return cases following discharge from hospital. Diphtheria has not troubled the community to any important degree during the last five years, the cases which have been notified being really carriers, the clinical symptoms being slight or absent. Strict supervision is kept over school contacts. The cases of Enteric Fever, few in number, have been due to eating polluted shell-fish, particularly mussels. Pneumonia is not generally notified by doctors in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations of 7th January, 1919. There were no cases of Malaria, Dysentery or Trench Fever. Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied by the Council free of charge to practitioners for immediate use. The facilities are not taken advantage of to any great extent, doctors preferring the removal of cases to hospital. There have been no cases of Encephalitis Lethargica. Bacteriological and Pathological specimens are examined by Dr. Sutherland at the County Council Laboratory, Wakefield. The number during 1925 is as follows:—Widal 3, Sputum 10, Diphtheria 25, Ring-

worm 8. It has not been practicable to make any use of the Schick and Dick tests in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever respectively, or of the recently developed artificial methods of immunisation against these diseases. Should the occasion arise, use would be made of this recent addition to our knowledge.

The Medical Officer of Health has not had the opportunity of performing primary or re-vaccinations under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917. Mr. T. Sykes, Vaccination Officer, reports that only 114 successful vaccinations were done, but 300 exemptions were obtained in the whole of the Liversedge district, which includes Heckmondwike as a portion of the area for vaccination purposes.

Non-notifiable acute infectious diseases during the five years 1921 to 1925 have come to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health through intimation principally received from the Council's Health Visitor, who is also the School Nurse. Teachers and the Attendance Officer have also given useful information. In all known cases, the homes of patients are visited by the Health Visitor, instructions are given, verbally and by printed pamphlet, and the usual procedure followed with the object of preventing the spread of infection and obtaining the best nursing conditions for the patients. Unfortunately there are no facilities for hospital accommodation for non-notifiable diseases where the home circumstances are such as to make removal of the patient desirable. This has been often previously referred to.

Year.	Cases Notified.	Visits.
Measles.		
1925	211	538
1924	74	190
1923	30	90
1922	57	173
1921	Nil	20
Whooping Cough.		
1925	52	207
1924	5	17
1923	46	137
1922	25	73
1921	Nil	12
Mumps.		
1925	9	26
1924	51	159
1923	Nil	Nil
1922	2	6
1921	Nil	Nil

Influenza has caused an average of about five deaths annually during the last five years. A number of these were not cases of true epidemic influenza. Advice respecting the disease, verbally and by printed pamphlet, is distributed when occasion requires. Should it be thought necessary, steps are taken to close local places of entertainment during epidemics of non-notifiable diseases. School closure is occasionally resorted to, but only under very special circumstances, for, generally speaking, such action is of little, if any use. More often it defeats the object in view, namely, the prevention of the spread of infection and the protection of the public health.

Disinfection and Disinfestation. Disinfection of premises is performed by fumigation and spraying with formaldehyde. Where necessary, articles of bedding and clothing are sent to the steam disinfector at Batley, a charge being made upon the Heckmondwike Council by the Batley Corporation for such services. It is not the fault of the Heckmondwike Council that a modern disinfecting station is not possessed, as is explained in previous Annual Reports. Application was made, but the Local Government Board refused a loan for the purpose. This occurred some years ago, the ground of refusal being a technical one of distance.

YEARS 1923, 1924 and 1925.

Table shewing relationship between domestic conditions of persons under 15, and incidence of notifiable disease.

Notifiable diseases	Less than 1 person per room		1 to 2 persons per room		More than 2 persons per room	
	Previously Attacked	Not Previously Attacked	Previously Attacked	Not Previously Attacked	Previously Attacked	Not Previously Attacked
Small Pox
Cholera (C) Plague (P)
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	...	1	...	6	..	2
Erysipelas
Scarlet Fever	6	..	20	...	13
Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria
Typhus Fever
Enteric Fever
Para Typhoid B
Pneumonia	2	...	...
Relapsing Fever
Malaria
Dysentery
Continued Fever
Puerperal Fever
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis
Poliomyelitis
Ophthalmia
Neonatorum	9	...	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	2	...	12	...	10
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	7	...	2
Encephalitis Lethargica

YEARS 1923—1924—1925.

Attack rates per thousand persons under 15, not known to have had a previous attack.

Notifiable Diseases.	Less than 1 person per room.	1 to 2 persons per room.	More than 2 persons per room.
Small Pox	—	—	—
Cholera (C) Plague (P)...	—	—	—
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ...	0·1	0·6	0·2
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	0·6	3·3	1·4
Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria	—	—	—
Typhus Fever	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Para Typhoid B	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	0·2	—
Relapsing Fever	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Continued Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	1·0	0·3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0·2	1·3	1·1
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	—	0·8	0·2
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—

These tables are compiled in accordance with the suggestion in Circular 540 of the Ministry of Health. Owing to the small number of notifications of infectious disease in Heckmondwike during 1923, 1924 and 1925, the figures are few and of little importance. The table will be added to year by year and its utility will be shown in the future.

TUBERCULOSIS IN HECKMONDWIKE, 1925.

Age periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
5	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
35	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	3	5	4	1	3	2	3	—

Table showing relationship between date of notification and date of death of all persons in Heckmondwike who were certified to have died from Tuberculosis between January 1st, 1913, and December 31st, 1925. It is a guide to the extent to which the requirements as to notification of Tuberculosis are observed by medical practitioners:—

Death before notification	4	Death 6 months after ...	2
Death 1 month, or under,		Death 7 months after ...	2
after notification ...	3	Death 8 months after ...	Nil.
Death 2 months after ...	3	Death 9 months after ...	1
Death 3 months after ...	1	Death 10 months after ...	1
Death 4 months after ...	4	Death 11 months after ...	Nil.
Death 5 months after ...	3	Death 12 months and over	15

The ratio of non-notified Tuberculosis deaths to total Tuberculosis deaths during 1925 was 4 to 8, or 50%.

The Regulations respecting notification of Tuberculosis are not strictly observed by practitioners, as the table shows. The County Council is the Authority for the treatment of the disease.

The following particulars are of interest. They show the conditions under which those persons who have been unfortunate enough to contract Tuberculosis are compelled to live. The remarkable thing is that comparatively so few persons suffer from the disease in view of the conditions shown. It is an additional sidelight upon the housing of the people of Heckmondwike, although it must not be assumed that Heckmondwike is worse than elsewhere. The whole question is a national one.

HOUSING CONDITIONS OF NOTIFIED CASES OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

Year.	Notifica- tions		Type of House			Occupants									Houses with more than one Patient Notified	Rooms					Bedrooms					Sleeping Accommodation for Patients			
M.	F	B. to B.	Single	Through	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9 and over	0	1	2	3	4	5	6 and over	0	1	2	3	4 and over	Separate Room	Shared Room	Separate Room	Shared Room	
					5	6	7	8	9	0	1	2		3	4	5	6	0	1	2	3	4	5	6					0	1	2	3	4	5	6
1921	6	4	5	1	4	0	4	1	3	0	0	1	0	0	2	2	3	1	2	0	3	4	2	1	2	5	8	5	
1922	8	8	9	0	7	0	3	2	6	4	1	0	0	0	1	8	1	3	2	1	0	9	5	2	6	5	10	11	
1923	5	2	4	0	3	0	1	2	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	6	0	1	0	0	6	1	0	2	5	5	6	
1924	9	5	6	1	7	0	2	3	2	3	0	2	2	1	2	3	2	1	4	2	4	4	3	1	1	5	13	9	
1925	3	5	4	0	4	0	0	2	1	1	2	0	2	0	3	1	3	0	1	0	3	4	1	0	1	2	7	6	

It sometimes happens that a patient may have been removed to a sanatorium, but notification of the fact is not received for some considerable period. The consequence is that disinfection of the premises may not be possible at an early date. If the regulations were observed in all cases by the sanatorium authorities this would not occur.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

These regulations are far reaching. They may involve a Local Authority in considerable expense, but are another step forward in the protection of the food supply from contamination. Generally speaking they provide that no person who is aware he is suffering from tuberculosis of the respiratory tract shall enter upon any employment or occupation in connection with a dairy which would involve the milking of cows, the treatment of milk, or the handling of vessels used for containing milk.

If a Local Authority on the report in writing of their Medical Officer of Health are satisfied that a person residing in their district who is engaged in any such employment or occupation is so suffering and in an infectious state they may by notice in writing signed by the Clerk or the Medical Officer of Health require such person to discontinue his employment or occupation. Any person sustaining damage by reason of the exercise by a Local Authority of any of the powers of these Regulations and not being himself in default is entitled under Section 308 of the Public Health Act, 1875, as applied by these regulations, to receive full compensation from the Local Authority.

Up to the year end no action had been taken under the regulations, such not being necessary. It is hoped action may never be required, but such a happy state of affairs is improbable.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SECTION 62.

This applies to compulsory removal to hospital of infectious persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis whose home circumstances make them a danger to others. No action has been taken so far, the difficulty being the provision of beds in sanatoria.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The County Council is the Authority for the treatment of these diseases. It is known that 1 male and 1 female patient made 13 and 18 attendances at the Venereal Diseases Department of the Leeds General Infirmary, and 2 males and 1 female attended the Dewsbury Infirmary Venereal Diseases Department,

but how many times is unknown. The figures from Bradford are unobtainable. These returns are no guide as to the amount of venereal disease in Heckmondwike. It is not an uncommon occurrence for mothers and infants to be seen at the Welfare Centre both suffering from one of these diseases. The mother cannot be told what is wrong with herself or child, neither can she as a general measure be referred for treatment to a venereal diseases clinic at Dewsbury, Leeds, Bradford, or elsewhere, because she would not attend in most instances, or if she did would become aware of the nature of her disability which would result in a domestic upheaval. Many women are not aware that they have venereal disease when such is the case. It must not be assumed one or other of the parents has necessarily infected the other in any event, neither is it by any means invariably the case that a wife is infected by her husband or a husband by his wife. The consequences to their offspring are often very serious, blindness being common unless treatment is prompt, whilst in later life many deaths are the result of venereal disease either congenital or acquired even many years previously. Lunacy is a frequent sequel.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Heckmondwike Urban District Council is the Authority for Maternity and Child Welfare in its area. The scheme is a good one and the results gratifying. The Notification of Births Act, 1907, was adopted by the Council in 1909, since which date arrangements have been made for attending to the health of expectant and nursing mothers, and of children under five years of age. Limited in scope at first, this side of the Council's activities has progressively enlarged, until at present the facilities provided will compare very favourably with the largest towns. The persons engaged in the work are the Medical Officer of Health, the Woman Assistant Medical Officer, Miss E. J. Howie, M.B., Ch.B., and Sister Shorter, the Council's Health Visitor. Miss Shorter has faithfully served the Council for six years, is well known to the mothers, who place much confidence in her, has considerable experience of her work—having been Sister in a large infants' hospital before coming to Heckmondwike—and possesses the personality necessary to be a successful Health Visitor. The latter cannot be acquired, but is a natural gift.

The Ante-Natal Clinic was established in July, 1925. It is held fortnightly at the George Street Sunday School. Patients are seen by the Assistant Medical Officer, Dr. Howie, and it has been a success from the outset. The following particulars speak for themselves and emphasise the necessity of the Clinic.

The period is for $5\frac{1}{2}$ months, ending December 31st, 1925.

Individual patients examined	...	...	...	42
Number found normal	...	...	...	7
Number suffering from one or more defects	...	...	...	35
Number of attendances at Ante-Natal Clinic	...	...	...	120
The classification of these defects is as below:—				
Respiratory system, including Tuberculosis, 4.				
Circulatory system, excluding Varicose Veins, 9.				
Digestive system, excluding Defective Teeth and Constipation, 4.				
Urinary system —: 6 Albuminuria, 1 Glycosuria.				
Small or deformed Pelvis, 2.				
Gynæcological defects, including Venereal Disease, 6.				
Varicose Veins, 8.				
Constipation, 14.				
Defective Teeth, 15.				
Deafness, 2.				

The Infant Welfare Centre is open every Thursday afternoon at the George Street Sunday School. The Medical Officer of Health attends weekly for consultations, the Health Visitor (Sister Shorter) acts as Superintendent of the Centre, and the Heckmondwike Nursing Association, which is a voluntary body, provides ladies to assist in the running of the Centre, such as the making of tea, providing and selling garments at cost price, the selling of dried milk, cod liver oil emulsion, etc. These ladies generally carry out all the non-professional work, and their assistance is of great value. Miss Hanson has been in charge of the sales stall as in former years, and comes from Halifax regularly at her own expense. The same voluntary workers are not there each week, but attend as appointed amongst themselves. The Council arranged a cutting-out and sewing class in accordance with the suggestion of the Ministry of Health. Mrs. Copping was placed in charge, but the mothers did not show sufficient interest and it had to be dropped.

Visits of Health Visitor, 1925.

Ante-natal—First Visits	...	...	...	109
Re-visits	...	...	...	241
Infants under 12 months—				
1st Visits	...	...	...	144
Re-visits	...	...	...	2397
Children between 1 and 3 years	...	...	...	2183
Children between 3 and 5 years	...	...	...	1613

	No. of cases.	Visits paid.
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	15
Pneumonia	9	11
Tuberculosis	11	71
Still Births	8	8
Other Visits—		
Measles	211	538
Whooping Cough	52	207
Mumps	9	26
Total visits made by Health Visitor for all purposes		7563

The Council's Health Visitor also acts as School Nurse for the West Riding County Council, which is the Authority responsible for the Schools. In return for her services the County Council pays an annual sum to the Heckmondwike Urban District Council. The above figures do not include any of her work as School Nurse. Up to the present there is no School Clinic at Heckmondwike although it is believed one may be established in the near future. The School Nurse has been much handicapped in her work amongst the scholars through the absence of such an institution. Urgent cases have often been brought to the Child Welfare Centre for advice by the Medical Officer of Health. It is no part of his duty to deal with such cases, as has been previously pointed out, but he has seen them because there would be little or no probability of treatment or advice being obtained elsewhere in most instances.

The attendances of mothers with infants at the Child Welfare Centre during 1925 were 1,318. There were 126 mothers' names upon the register. The average attendance of each mother was over ten times. Dried milk was given to necessitous mothers, under the Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, to the extent of 186 lbs., the number of mothers being 36, which is a considerable addition to the 6 only of the previous year and is a testimony to the bad trade experienced locally.

At the close of the year a jumble sale, followed later by a tea and concert at the Welfare Centre, was organised by the Health Visitor. It was a very successful function and much appreciated by the mothers. Invitations were restricted to those mothers whose names appeared on the register as attending the Centre.

The Voluntary Workers, through the Health Visitor, have given about one dozen vests to necessitous cases at the Centre. A Boots for the Bairns Fund was organised by the Council. The distribution has been as follows:—117 children have been dealt with, receiving 70 pairs of boots, 45 pairs of clogs, 93 pairs of stockings, 9 shirts and 15 various articles of underclothing. The fund consists of voluntary subscriptions collected from any available source,

The Heckmondwike Nursing Association possesses a Maternity Home containing 5 beds, supported by voluntary contributions, fees from patients, and Ministry of Health grant. The Heckmondwike Urban District Council is not in any way connected with the establishment, neither are any of the Council's officers. The following are the births in the Home during recent years:—

Year.	Number.	Heckmondwike	
		Residents.	Others.
1922	72	23	50
1923	71	15	56
1924	72	18	54
1925	76	35	41

Complicated cases of parturition are generally removed to one or other of the local hospitals, principally Batley. There has been no maternal mortality during 1925, neither have there been any cases of Puerperal Fever notified. Eight still-births occurred, and, in accordance with the usual procedure, enquiry was made by the Health Visitor, who, after consultation with the Medical Officer, gave suitable advice where desirable respecting the future.

Of the births notified, 68 were by doctors, 128 by midwives and 9 by other persons. There were no unnotified births.

The deaths of infants are investigated in every instance, but practically each mother is individually known, and the circumstances have received attention continuously since the infant's birth.

There are no special facilities for dealing with unmarried mothers and illegitimate children apart from the Poor Law, but almost all attend the Welfare Centre, whilst every one is known to the Health Visitor and visited periodically.

Children needing Orthopædic treatment are recommended to that department of the Leeds General Infirmary or elsewhere, and every effort is made to persuade parents to take advantage of the facilities available. The incidence of particular diseases peculiar to children and parturient women in Heckmondwike during recent years can be estimated by reference to the statistics given under the appropriate headings in previous sections of this Report. Generally speaking, a favourable comparison can be made with other districts. It is particularly noteworthy that in a busy industrial town such as this there was no death from Diarrhœa amongst infants between 1914 and 1919, and that there should have been only five during the last eleven years. Measles and Whooping Cough have caused five and four deaths respectively during the last five years. This is not an unfavourable record. Ophthalmia Neonatorum is notified occasionally.

It is the result of venereal disease, and its incidence during recent years is shown below. All cases are immediately visited and appropriate steps taken.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Year.	CASES.			Vision Unim- paired.	Vision Impaired.	Total Blind- ness.	Death.
	Notified.	Treated.					
		At Home.	In Hospital.				
1914	1	1	None	1	None	None	None
1915	2	2	None	2	None	None	None
1916	3	3	None	3	None	None	None
1917	1	1	None	1	None	None	None
1918	2	2	None	2	None	None	None
1919	5	5	None	5	None	None	None
1920	7	7	None	7	None	None	None
1921	4	4	None	4	None	None	None
1922	5	5	None	5	None	None	None
1923	3	3	None	3	None	None	None
1924	5	4	1	5	None	None	None
1925	4	4	None	4	None	None	None

HEALTH WEEK.

During November the Council organised a Health Week and Exhibition. A similar venture on more modest lines had been held in the autumn of 1924. Sermons were preached in the various places of worship. On the Sunday evening an address was given by the Rev. Father P. B. Bull, M.A., supported by members of the Council under the presidency of the Chairman, Councillor J. J. Lockwood, J.P. Great assistance was rendered by the proprietors of the Picture Palace in shewing films dealing with Public Health matters. A Mothercraft and Child Welfare Exhibition was held for three days, the opening ceremony being presided over by Councillor B. G. Crowther, Chairman of the Sanitary and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees, the Exhibition being in charge of Miss Keating, of the National Baby Week Council. Lecturettes were delivered by Dr. Howie and Sister Shorter, and an evening lecture illustrated by lantern slides was given by Dr. J. Johnstone Jervis, Medical Officer of Health, Leeds. All the functions were well attended, over two thousand persons passing through the Exhibition alone. Much of the unseen work of preparation was done by the Health Visitor (Miss Shorter) and the Sanitary Inspector (Mr. A. K. Greenwood).

